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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/771,896	01/30/2001	Nobuyuki Mori	826.1670	2674
21171	7590	12/01/2005	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			DADA, BEEMNET W	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2135	

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/771,896

Applicant(s)

MORI ET AL.

Examiner

Beemnet W. Dada

Art Unit

2135

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 September 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 6, 24, 27 and 34-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 6, 24, 27 and 34-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in reply to an amendment filed on September 08, 2005. Claims 1, 6, 24 and 27 have been amended, claims 2-5, 7-23, 25, 26 and 28-33 have been cancelled and new claims 34-37 have been added. Claims 1, 6, 24, 27 and 34-37 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 6 and 34-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Miyauchi US Patent 5,689,567.

4. As per claim 1, Miyauchi teaches a signature system presenting a receiver with signature information of a user [see abstract], comprising:

an input unit inputting authentication information of the user [column 4, lines 38-45, figure 1a, step S11];

an output unit outputting information for generation of the signature information according to the input authentication information, the output information including a signature program [column 4, lines 45-67, figure 2, steps 14-17 and figure 1a, steps S12-S15],

wherein the signature program generates first blind information from illegal use prevention information for protection against illegal use, and enters both the first blind information and illegal use prevention information in the signature information [column 4, line 62 – column 5, line 12].

5. As per claim 6, Miyauchi further teaches the system wherein said signature program contains a one-directional function (i.e., hash function) and an encryption key used in generating blind information from said illegal use prevention information [column 4, lines 49-67].

6. As per claims 34, Miyauchi further teaches the system further comprising a comparison unit generating second blind information from said illegal use prevention information contained in the signature information, and comparing the second blind information with the first blind information contained in the signature information [column 5, line 39 – column 6, line 11 and column 3, line 52 – column 4, line 24].

7. As per claims 35-37, Miyauchi teaches a signature system, comprising:
management unit for managing first blind information generated from authentication information, one-directional function and encryption key which are registered by a user [column 4, lines 37-67];

receiving unit for receiving signature information which contains the authentication information [column 4, lines 37-45];

generating unit for generating second blind information from the authentication information contained in the signature information, using the one-directional function and the encryption key [column 5, lines 39-61];

comparison unit for comparing the first blind information with the second blind information to produce a first comparison result [column 5, line 55 – column 6, line 11 and column 3, line 52 – column 4, line 24];

verification unit for verifying the signature information according to the first comparison result [column 5, line 39 – column 6, line 11 and column 3, line 52 – column 4, line 24].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 24 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyauchi US Patent 5,689,567 in view of Chow et al. US Patent 6,292,092 B1 (hereinafter Chow).

10. As per claims 24 and 27 Miyauchi teaches a signature system presenting a receiver with signature information of a user [see abstract], comprising:

an input unit inputting identification information of the user [column 4, lines 38-45, figure 1a, step S11];

generating signature information of a user and illegal use prevention information for protection against illegal user, based on the inputted information [column 4, lines 45-67, figure 2, steps 14-17 and figure 1a, steps S12-S15];

an output unit outputting information, generating a signature program for generating blind information from illegal use prevention information, and entering both the blind information and the illegal use prevention information in the signature information [column 4, lines 45-67, figure 2, steps 14-17 and figure 1a, steps S12-S15].

Furthermore, Miyauchi teaches an input means such as a scanner [see column 3, lines 18-19]. Miyauchi is silent on reading information in a bar code format and outputting generated information and signature program in a format readable by a bar code reader. However it is old and well known to output signature program in a format readable by a bar code reader. For example, within the same field of endeavor Chow teaches a secure personal identification system including reading information in a bar code format and outputting generated information and signature program in a format readable by a bar code reader [column 3, lines 1-3, column 4, lines 63-67 and column 7, lines 57-63]. Both Miyauchi and Chow teach a signature system. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to combine the teachings of Chow within the system of Miyauchi in order to further enhance the flexibility of the system by having barcode as input/output means.

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments filed 09/08/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Miyauchi fails to teach the system that produces "output information including a signature program ...[that] generates ... blind information from illegal use prevention information for protection against illegal user" as recited in claim 1. Applicant further argues that there is no suggestion in Chow et al of modifying the system taught by Miyauchi to record a program in a bar code or output any kind of program in any way. Applicant further argues that the new added claim 34 recites the following limitation that is neither taught by

Miyauchi or Chow et al "a comparison unit ... [generates] second blind information from said illegal use prevention information contained in the signature information, and ... [compares] the second blind information contained in the signature information". Examiner disagrees.

12. Examiner would point out that Miyauchi teaches a signature system that includes a signature program which generates first blind information from illegal use prevention information for protection against illegal use, and enters both the first blind information and illegal use prevention information in the signature information (i.e., hash value generated from a signature object document M, and further encrypts the signature image G with a key of the hash value) [column 4, line 62 – column 5, line 12]. Examiner would further point out that In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, Miyauchi can be modified by Chow et al in order to further enhance the flexibility of the system by having barcode as input/output means. Examiner would further point out that Miyauchi teaches a comparison unit generating second blind information from said illegal use prevention information contained in the signature information, and comparing the second blind information with the first blind information contained in the signature information [column 5, line 39 – column 6, line 11 and column 3, line 52 – column 4, line 24].

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Beemnet W. Dada whose telephone number is (571) 272-3847. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (9:00 am - 5:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y. Vu can be reached on (571) 272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

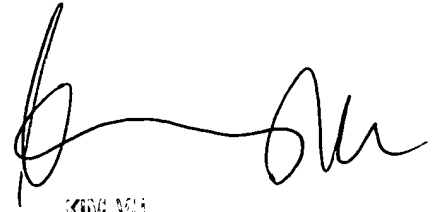
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 09/771,896
Art Unit: 2135

Page 8

Beemnet Dada

November 23, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Vu', with a stylized, flowing script.

KIM VU
EXHIBITORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2